

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 MC-02 EB-11 ACDA-19 L-03 IGA-02

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R 231240Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO USMISSION NATO

INFO USCINCEUR

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USNMR SHAPE

UFLBAA/CINCUSAFE

DEPT OF COMMERCE

CHIEF MAAG BRUSSELS

AEMBASSY BONN 1921

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSES

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 1931

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, MASS, NATO, FR

SUBJECT: IMPORTANT PROJECT - REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FR F-104.

REF: USNATO 0215

1. SUMMARY. FOUR COUNTRIES HAVE ORDERED ALMOST 200
MIRAGE F-1 AIRCRAFT. SUPER F-1 IS UNDER DEVELOPMENT BUT
THERE ARE NO KNOWN ORDER FOR IT. DASSAULT, PRODUCER
OF MIRAGE AIRCRAFT, HAS LONG RECORD OF TAILORING ITS AIRCRAFT
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TO CUSTOMERS NEEDS. MOREOVER, IT HAS BEEN RECEPTIVE TO

CO-PRODUCTION OF LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS WITH PURCHASING COUNTRIES.
END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION ELABORATES ON INFORMATION
IN PARA 5, STATE 12937, I RESPONSE TO REFTTEL:

3. THE GOF HAS ORDERED 105 MIRAGES F-1 AIRCRAFT FOR ITS OWN
AIR FORCE. THIS IS THE F-1C, AND ALL-WEATHER INTERCEPTOR
WITH SNECMA ATAR 09K-50 ENGINE WITH 15,800 POUNDS THRUST WITH
AFTERBURNER. SOME AIRCRAFT ARE IN OPERATIONAL FAF QUADRONS
WITH THE BALANCE BEING DELIERED. THREE COUNTRIES HAVE
ALSO ORDERED FOLLOWING QUANTITIES THIS VERSION OF THE F-1:
SOUTH AFRICA FORTY-EIGHT, SPAIN FIFTEEN, AND ZAIRE SEVENTEEN.
AVINS MARCEL DASSAULT (AMD) HAD PROPOSED TO OFFER THREE OTHER
VERSIONS: THE F-1E WITH DIFFERENT AVIONICS FOR AN ATTACK
ROLE; THE F-1A (MULTI-PURPOSE) HICH WOULD BE A STRIPPED OF
AVIONICS VERSION, AND THEREFORE CHEAPER (FOLLOWING THE PATTERN
OF THE MIRAGE-V AS A CLEAR WEATHER ADVANCED VERSION OF THE
MRAGE III); AND THE F-1B TWO SEAT TRAINER. NONE OF THESE
VARIANTS HAS BEEN ORDERED TO OUR KNOWLEDGE. AMD IS PROCEEDING WITH
A SUPER F-1 VERSION TO BE EUIPPED WITH THE SNECMA M-53 ENGINE
WITH 18,650 POUNDS OF THRUST WITH AFTERBURNER. THERE ARE NO
KNOWN ORDERS FOR THIS VARIANT OF THE F-1.

4. AND HAS A LONG RECORD OF TAILORING ITS AIRCRAFT TO A
CUSTOMERS NEEDS. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE HAVE BEEN FIVE
VERSIONS OF THE MIRAGE IIIB SERIES; TWO OF THE C SERIES,
SIX OF THE D SERIES, FOUR OF THE R SERIES, PLUS AN O SERIES
FOR AUSTRALIA AND AN S SERIES FOR SWITZERLAND. THUS, IF
A CUSTOMER SHOULD WANT HE CURRENT PRODUCTION F-1, AMD WOULD
NO DOUBT TAILOR IT TO ONE OF THE VERSIONS MENTIONED IN PARA THREE,
OR, TO A COMPLETELY NEW SERIES. PRODUCTION AIRRAFT COULD
BE DIVERTED FROM FAF DELIVERIES AND THE EOF WOULD NO DOUBT
APPROVE SUCH A DIVERSION.

5. AS FOR LONG TERM PRODUCTION, FROM 1960 THROGH 1973, AMD HAS
SOLD NEARLY 1,250 MIRAGE III, MIRAGE V AND F-1 AIRCRAFT TO
SEVENTEEN COUNTRIES IN ADDITION TO FRENCH REQUIREMENTS. MIRAGE
II SALES WERE: 1960 ISRAEL; 1961 AUSTRALIA, SWITZERLAND AND
SOUTH AFRICA; 1966 LEBANON; 1967 PAKISTAN; 1970 SPAIN, BRAVIL,
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ARGENTINA AD AUSTRALIA. THE MIRAGE V SALES WERE: 1967 PERU;
1968 BELGIUM; 1970 LIBYA AND COMOMBIA; 1971 VENEZUELA;
1972 AUB DHABI (PERSIAN GUL) AND SOUTH AFRICA. AS MENTIONED
ABOVE, F-1 SALES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE FAF, SOUTH AFRICA,
SPAIN AND ZAIRE. CURRENT MIRAGE PRODUCTION RATE (ALL SRIES)
AT BORDEAUX-MERIGNAC IS ABOUT 10 PER MONTH WITH CURRENT
ORDERS ENSURING PRODUCTION TO ABOUT END 1976.

6. THE GOF AND *MD HAVE BEEN RECEPTIVE TO SOME FORM OF CO-PRODUCTION OR LICENSING AGREEMENT FOR THE MIRAGE SERIES OF AIRCRAFT. BELGIUM, SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, SWITZERLAND AND SPAIN HAVE SUCH AGREEMENTS FOR PAST AND FUTURE PRODUCTION AND/OR ASSEMBLY. CURRENTLY, SOUTH AFRICA AND SPAIN HAVE LICENSING AGREEMENT FOR THE F-1. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE DETAILS OF THESE AGREEMENTS. NOR DO WE HAVE INFORMATION ON FRENCH CO-PRODUCTION RAPIDLY PEAKING AND DECLINING AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL. ASSUMING COUNTRIES NOW OPERATING OLDER MIRAGES WOULD WANT REPLACEMENTS IN THE FUTURE, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT PRODUCTION WOULD CONTINUE AT A RATE DEPENDENT ON SUCCESS OF FUTURE SALES PROGRAMS.

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